Standard laminate flooring is a poor choice for a damp basement because trapped moisture causes the wood core to swell, warp, and grow mold. If you want to use laminate, you must buy a waterproof type and fix any water leaks first.

Why Standard Laminate Fails

- **Wood Core:** Water makes the inner fiberboard expand and break apart.
- **Trapped Mold:** Moisture hides underneath and grows out of sight.
- **No Return:** Damaged boards cannot shrink back and must be replaced.

How to Make It Work

- **Fix Leaks:** Stop water from coming through the walls or floor first.
- **Use Waterproof Boards:** Choose special waterproof laminate made for wet areas.
- **Add a Vapor Barrier:** Lay down thick plastic sheeting to block ground moisture.
- **Leave Expansion Gaps:** Keep space at the edges so the floor can breathe and